

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



For the year ending 31st December, 1944.

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HEALTH COMMITTEE - 1944

Councillors: G.H. Cooke (Chairman),
J. Berry (Vice-Chairman and Chairman
of the Council),
R. Crawshaw,
T. Dyer,
G.A. Griffiths, M.P.,
H.E. Holmes, J.P., C.C.,
W. Humphries, J.P.,
W. Morris,
W. Westwood.

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S T A F F

Medical Officer of Health:
HENRY BURTON PARE, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector and Waterworks Manager:
GEO. HEPWORTH, Cert.S.I.B., A.R.San.I.

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To the Chairman and Members
of the Royston Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my report for the year ending 31st December, 1944, particularly as the vital statistics show that at the end of more than five years of war the health of Royston is good. The death rate is at a very low level, the birth rate has been maintained and the infantile mortality considerably reduced. It compares most favourably with other districts of a similar size and character.

There has not been any appreciable social activity. Housing, of course, is at a standstill, but steps are being taken to remedy the acute shortage of houses as soon as building is permitted. It has also been impossible, owing to shortage of material and labour, to bring about any great sanitary change, e.g., the conversion of privies into water closets. There are still in the area 96 privy middens and these are unhealthy as they form a breeding place for flies which infect food and may produce diarrhoea, particularly in young children.

The collection and disposal of house refuse has been efficiently carried out, sometimes under difficulty in transport. Controlled tipping has proved itself economical and sanitary.

The water supply is of good quality and of sufficient quantity. There has been a consumption of Forty-one and an half million gallons, giving a daily allowance of nearly fifteen gallons per day for each person.

Disinfestation has only been necessary in two houses and this was carried out by hydrocyanogen.

Infectious diseases show fluctuation compared with other years. The cases of Diphtheria are reduced but those of Scarlet Fever have remained the same. There has not been any serious epidemic during the year.

The control of Tuberculosis remains with the County Council, who hold a clinic twice a week at Barnsley. It is most satisfactory to note that the number of patients on the register in Royston is decreasing. There were only four cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and no cases of Non-Pulmonary, e.g., glands, joints, bones, reported during the year.

Venereal disease is difficult to trace, as it is not notifiable and contacts cannot be followed up. A great deal of publicity by means of posters has drawn attention to the dangers of untreated cases and indicate the various clinics at which treatment can be obtained.

The boundaries of the township have remained unchanged, and the number of houses unaltered at 2030.

The rateable value is £25,438, and a 1d. rate produces £94.

Vital Statistics

Registrar General's estimate of the resident population : 7470.

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
<u>Births</u>	152	75	77	Birth rate per 1000 estimated resident population : 20.34.
Legitimate	147	73	74	
Illegitimate	5	2	3	
<u>Still Births</u>	4	3	1	Rate per 1000 total live and still births :
Legitimate	3	3	0	
Illegitimate	1	0	1	
<u>Deaths</u>	64	40	24	Deaths per 1000 estimated average population : 8.56.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List).

	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births.</u>
	<u>M.</u> <u>F.</u>	
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis	NIL.	NIL.
No. 30 Other puerperal causes	NIL.	NIL.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age:

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
	6	5	1
Legitimate	6	5	1
Illegitimate	0	0	0

All infants per 1000 live births : 39.5.

Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births : 40.8

Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births : 0.

Deaths from	Cancer (all ages)	9
	Measles (all ages)	0
	Whooping Cough	0
	Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	0

Causes of death:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
1. Tuberculosis : (a) Pulmonary	3	0	0
(b) Non-Pulmonary	0	0	0
2. Cancer : All types	9	6	3
(a) Uterus		0	1
(b) Breast		0	2
(c) Stomach		2	0
(d) Other sites		4	0
3. Disease of circulatory system	22	15	7
(a) Intra-cranial vascular lesions		2	1
(b) Heart disease		13	6
4. Respiratory diseases	8	6	2
(a) Bronchitis		3	1
(b) Pneumonia		3	1
5. Diabetes	2	1	1
6. Digestive diseases	6	3	3
(a) Diarrhoea under two years		2	1
(b) Other digestive diseases		1	2
7. Nephritis	1	0	1
8. Puerperal causes	2	2	0
(a) Premature birth		1	0
(b) Con. malformation		1	0
9. Suicide	1	1	0
10. Violent deaths	4	2	2
(a) Road traffic accidents		0	1
(b) Other violent deaths		2	1
11. All other causes	6	4	2

The maternal mortality is NIL.

There were no deaths from infectious disease.

Table showing death rate, birth rate, and infantile mortality rate per 1000 estimated population for Royston for past 5 years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Death rate.</u>	<u>Birth rate.</u>	<u>Infantile Mortality rate per 1000 births.</u>
1940	11.45	17.65	23.43
1941	11.77	16.12	65.04
1942	10.35	19.37	62.50
1943	19.98	20.58	52.35
1944	8.56	20.34	39.5
England and Wales	11.6	17.6	46.0

Table showing monthly incidence of infectious disease during 1944.

Notifiable Disease	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Scarlet Fever	M F	1 -	1 -	1 -	- -	1 -	2 -	- -	4 -	1 5	2 1	3 -	6 17 23
Diphtheria	M F	1 -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 -	- -	2 -	- -	- -	1 8	4 3 7
Measles	M F	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 1	11	10 12 22
Totals:	2	1	1	-	1	2	3	-	6	6	6	24	52

Comparison: Rate of infectious disease per 1000 population

Royston England & Wales

Diphtheria 0.93 0.58

Scarlet Fever 3.70 2.40

Notifiable Disease.	Age Groups												Total cases removed to hospital	Number of cases died	
	At all ages	Y e a r s													
		Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65			65 and over
Scarlet Fever	M F	23	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 13	1 10	1 1	3 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	21	1
Diphtheria	M F	7	1 1	1 1	1 1	13 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	7	1
Measles	M F	22	11 1	1 1	12 1	11 9	6 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1 1	1	1
Totals:		52	2	1	4	7	19	12	2	3	1	1	1	28	1

Number of cases of Diphtheria immunised in the above table is 3.

Number of children immunised during the year 1944 was 92.

The majority of these were done at the Child Welfare Clinic, and between the ages of one and three years, i.e., before school age.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total deaths
Small Pox	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	23	21	-
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-
Diphtheria	7	7	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-
Measles	22	-	-

Disinfection.

Disinfection was carried out at the houses where infectious diseases occurred. Contacts were kept under strict observation.

The following table shows the number of cases of disease notified during the last five years:-

Year	Smallpox	Scarlet Fever	Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	Diphtheria	Total
1940	-	9	1	32	42
1941	-	10	3	17	30
1942	-	28	1	2	31
1943	-	23	-	26	49
1944	-	23	-	7	30

Tuberculosis.

The following table shows particulars of tuberculosis and of the deaths from the disease in the district of Royston during the year 1944:-

Age Period	New cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 to 1								
1 to 5								
5 to 15								
15 to 25	1					1		
25 to 35						2		
35 to 45	2	1						
45 to 55								
55 to 65								
65 upwards								

Tuberculosis patients on the list at the end of 1944:-

Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
Males	Females	Males	Females
12	6	4	6

This is a decrease of 3 in the number on the register at the end of 1943.

District Nursing Service.

Number of visits paid during the year : 5428

Number of patients treated : 423.

Sanitary Department

Sanitary circumstances of the district

Water supply:

The township received its water in bulk from the County Borough of Barnsley, being served to the Royston U.D.C. mains from the reservoir at Smithies Hill. The supply throughout the year was satisfactory both as to quantity and quality.

The total consumption during the year in Royston (exclusive of the amount supplied to the Wakefield Rural District Council) was 41,488,000 gallons, which represented an average daily consumption of 14.88 gallons per head.

The following table shows the consumption for the past five years:-

Year	Total annual consumption.	Average daily consumption per head per population.
1944	41,488,000 gallons	14.88 gallons
1943	39,171,000 "	14.43 "
1942	42,018,000 "	15.17 "
1941	42,680,000 "	15.07 "
1940	42,290,000 "	14.94 "

No extensions to the water mains were carried out during the year.

Drainage and sewerage.

No major alterations or extensions to the sewerage system took place.

No pollution of rivers or streams in the area was detected during the year.

Closet accommodation.

Particulars of the various types of sanitary conveniences in the district at the end of 1944:-

Water closets	1876
Waste water closets	None
Pail closets	None
Privies	96

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of house and trade refuse is carried out by the following:-

1 two ton Bedford motor vehicle,
1 driver,
4 loaders,
1 controlled tip attendant,
Extra assistance required by horse and cart.

Collection is made from the following receptacles:

Dustbins	1907
Dry ashpits	None
Privy middens	56

Sanitary inspections of the area.

During the year the following visits and inspections were made:-

<u>Nature of inspections</u>	<u>No. of visits paid</u>
Bakchouses	2
Cinemas and Music Halls	2
Cowsheds and dairies	3
Drainage	38
Factories	3
Infectious diseases	62
Interviews	38
Milk and Dairies Order	3
Miscellaneous under the P.H.A.	88
Petroleum Act	4
Public Cleansing	77
Rats and Mice Destruction Act and Orders	166
Refuse Disposal	21
Verminous and Dirty houses	33
Water Clauses Act	87
Work in progress	28
Schools	2
Meat and Foods	7
TOTAL:	<u>644</u>

Record of nuisances abated and work done.

Defective service pipes renewed or repaired	4
Defective W.C. ditto.	16
Defective taps repaired	186
Defective taps renewed	11
Setpot boilers repaired	1
Fire-ranges repaired	1
Defective dustbins provided	104
Choked drains cleansed	28
Watercloset pedestal and fittings	6
Defective plaster to walls and ceilings	11
Defective eavespouts	1
New chimney pots	1
Sink pipes cleansed	11
Sink pipes renewed	1
Defective flag floor	1
Verminous and dirty houses (H.C.N. gas)	2
Overflowing cesspool	1
Defective rainwater downspout	1
Defective wood floor	1
Defective roof	4
Defective cords and windows	3
TOTAL:	<u>358</u>

Salvage.

During the year the following materials were collected and sold - tins and rubber were taken from the special list and the local authorities were not compelled to collect them:-

	From 1st to 31st December, 1944				From 1st to 31st December, 1943			
	T.	c.	qr.	lbs.	T.	c.	qr.	lbs.
Paper	29	8	1	-	48	3	3	-
Glass					34	1	2	-
Bones		15	1	6		16	-	3
Rags	1	13	-	8		14	2	3
Tins					23	15	-	-
Non-ferrous metals						3	-	25
Rubber		4	-	-		17	-	-
Miscellaneous	1	2	-	-		3	-	25
String		2	-	-				
Iron	1	10	-	-				

Eradication of bed bugs.

Two houses were treated with H.C.N. gas during the year.

Factory Act, 1936.

Three inspections under the above Act were made during the year 1944.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H.B. PARE, M.B., Ch.B.

Medical Officer of Health.

